



The President's Daily Brief

28 September 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The arrival of five Soviet naval vessels at the Syrian port of Tartus is the latest demonstration of Moscow's support for Damascus. (Page 1)

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The exodus of Soviet Jews continues at a significant rate, despite last month's decree requiring emigrants to reimburse the state for their education. (Page 3)

In Lebanon, an accommodation has been reached between the government and the fedayeen, but the Lebanese Army is maintaining control over fedayeen activities. (Page 4)

The Communists are continuing to exert pressure against government positions in South Vietnam's coastal lowlands.

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(Page 5)

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Poland [redacted]
North Vietnam [redacted]

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West Germany and China have successfully concluded negotiations to establish diplomatic relations. (Page 6)

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Nationalist China [redacted]

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[redacted] Bangladesh [redacted]

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USSR-SYRIA

[redacted] a destroyer and a de-
stroyer escort from the Soviet Mediterranean fleet
entered the Syrian harbor of Tartus early yesterday.
Three amphibious ships apparently accompanied the
warships.

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*The inclusion of the amphibious ships sug-
gests that a joint amphibious exercise may
take place in the near future. Neither
the presence of the warships nor the pro-
jected amphibious exercise is unprecedented.
Two Soviet naval vessels were in the Syrian
port of Latakia as recently as July, and
there have been two joint Soviet-Syrian
amphibious exercises since 1970. The naval
visit at this time can, however, be used
by both sides as an additional demonstra-
tion of Soviet backing for the Syrians.*

Some further development in the Soviet-Syrian
relationship may be in the offing. [redacted]

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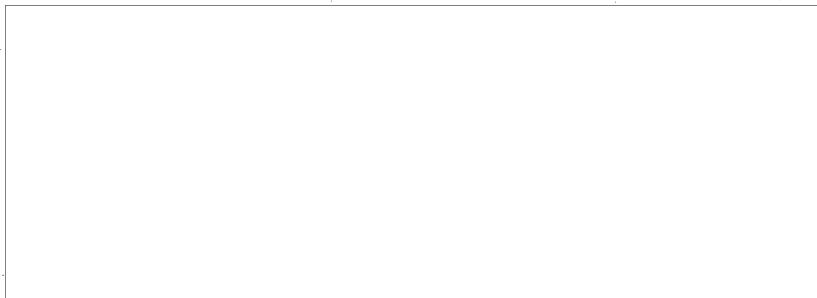
The number of Soviet military transport flights
to Syria since 19 September still stands at 17.

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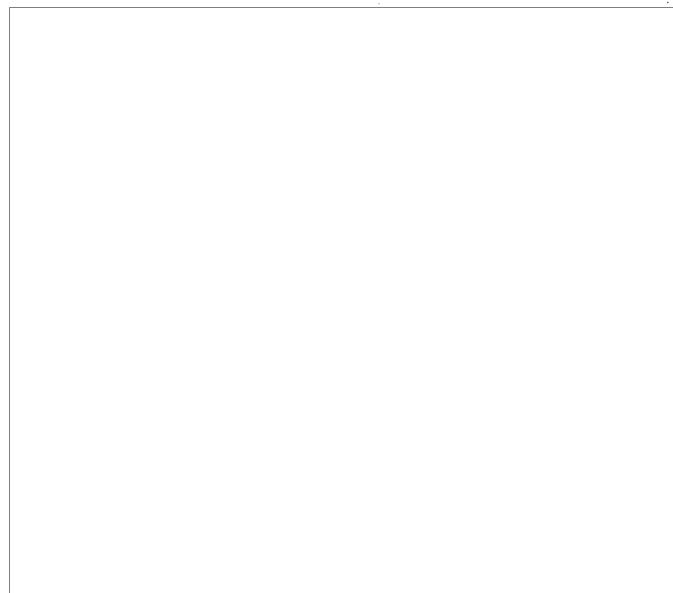
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ROMANIA - WARSAW PACT



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USSR

The exodus of Soviet Jews continues at a significant rate, despite last month's decree requiring emigrants to reimburse the state for their educations. Dutch officials in Moscow state that 10 to 20 Jews a day are paying the new levy, and estimate that 20 percent of all working males who receive exit visas for Israel have a high enough level of education to be affected. The Dutch also told US officials that 2,000 Jews a month emigrated in August and September--a decrease of about 500 each month from the January-July average.

This decline may in large part be due to the summer vacation period, when the Soviet bureaucracy tends to slow down.

The exit fee requirement is said to be enforced uniformly throughout the Soviet Union. Although the burden of the new law falls heaviest on the Jews, who are emigrating in the largest numbers, other nationalities including Russians have been affected. Caprice and arbitrariness in enforcement seem to have been limited by the use of a written schedule of fees applicable to specific types of educations. The Soviets have not published the decree and refuse to make the text available to foreign officials on grounds that it is purely an internal matter. Nevertheless, a purported text of the decree, received by the Israeli Government from a recent emigrant who reproduced it from memory, generally agrees with earlier reports that the fees range from \$4,356 to more than \$14,520. The fees are levied regardless of age, sex, or ability to pay, and do not take into account any principle of amortization.

The Soviets have shown sensitivity to Western charges that the new law is discriminatory and violates human rights. There are no indications that Moscow is prepared to retreat on the issue, but its refusal to publish the decree or to ratify it at the recent session of the Supreme Soviet--actions that do not negate the validity of the law--may mean that if Moscow were to find the pressure too great, it could quietly amend the law and publish the new text to refute harmful foreign allegations.

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LEBANON-FEDAYEEN

Cairo radio announced on 25 September that a "complete understanding" had been reached between the Lebanese Government and the fedayeen, and that delegations representing both parties would go to south Lebanon to work out the details. [redacted]

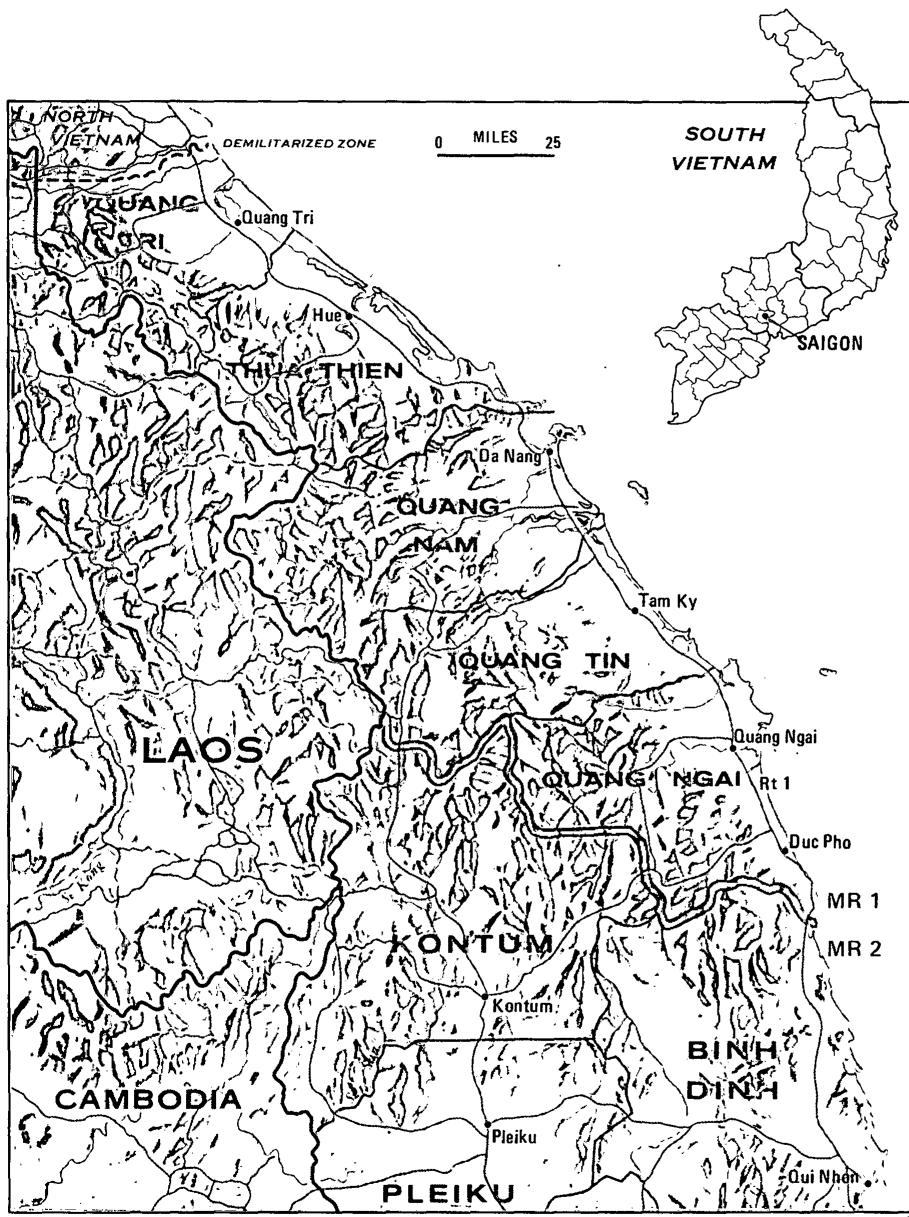
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[redacted] the number of fedayeen in the south has been substantially reduced since the Israeli foray of 16 and 17 September. The army is maintaining control over those that remain by means of roving patrols and numerous checkpoints. A few fedayeen have been wounded when they refused to submit to army searches.

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Although the major fedayeen groups have apparently acquiesced in the agreement and accepted continuing army restrictions, some splinter groups may not, and further incidents between them and the army could occur. Moreover, the continued presence of some commandos in the south could cause Israel to launch another attack aimed at ridding the area of all fedayeen.

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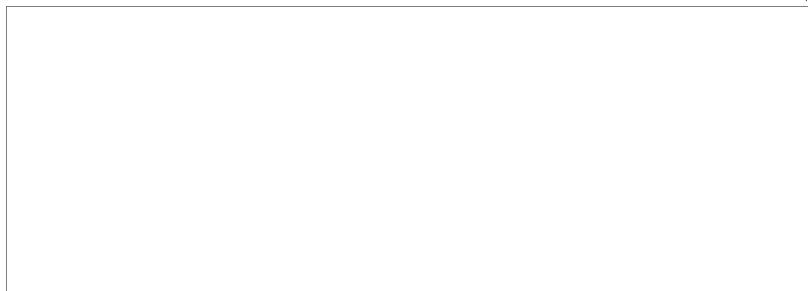
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VIETNAM

Communist pressure against threatened government positions along the central coast is continuing, and heavy fighting is reported around several district capitals. Intercepted messages suggest that the Communist 711th Division, which has carried the brunt of the fighting in Quang Tin, may be maneuvering to renew offensive operations in the lowlands to the west of Tam Ky, the provincial capital. In the Quang Tri area, the Communists have resumed heavy shelling, firing several thousand mortar and artillery rounds into government positions.

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NOTES

Poland - North Vietnam: [redacted]

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West Germany - China: Negotiations to establish diplomatic relations were successfully concluded in Bonn on Monday [redacted]

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[redacted] The formal announcement will come in a joint communiqué at the end of Foreign Minister Scheel's visit to Peking beginning on 10 October.

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Nationalist China: [redacted]

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Bangladesh-USSR: [redacted]

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